

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

- Claims 4-9, and 12 are pending in the Application after entry of this amendment.
- Claims 1, and 4-10 are rejected by Examiner.
- Claims 1 and 10 are newly cancelled by Applicant.
- Claims 4-9 are amended by Applicant.
- Claim 12 is added.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 4-8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Specifically, Claims 1 and 4-8 are unclear concerning the term "at least one" port for connecting peripherals. Claim 10 is unclear concerning the terms "external data source" and "external data sources".

Applicant cancels Claim 1 which contained the term "at least one" port. Claims 4-8 are amended to depend on independent Claim 9. Claim 10 is cancelled.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §112 rejection of pending Claims 4-8 based on the amendments.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 5, 7, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,647,015 to Malkemes et al. (Malkemes) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,434,170 to Movshovich et al. (Movshovich) and in further view of US Patent Publication No. 2002/0067718 to Coupe et al. (Coupe). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection via amendment.

Independent Claim 9 is amended to include the aspect that the gateway is distributed among peripherals called gateway modules which are chained

together and the aspect that each gateway module handles a plurality of isochronous channels on the local area network, and wherein each gateway module has means for controlling incoming data from a multiple program transport stream received from the external data source according to one request of a peripheral on the local area network and for sending the incoming data received from the external data source to the local area network in order to reduce bandwidth occupation on the local area network. Support for this amendment is found in paragraphs 0025-026, 0053, and 0107 of the as-filed specification represented as US Patent Publication No. 2005/0226237 to Chapel et al. (Chapel). Added Claim 12 finds support in paragraphs 0027 and 0076 of the publication of the as-filed specification.

Malkemes discusses a transmitter and receiver apparatus for providing a broadband, wireless, communication network throughout a residence. Malkemes states that each communications appliance within the residence is outfitted with a receiver that decodes broadcast signals and couples the signals to the input terminals of the associated communications appliance. Malkemes, at col. 4 lines 6-18, defines the problem to be solved as that of multipath in a wireless environment. Malkemes solves the problem with a multiple antenna diversity technique in the form of a spatial diversity equalizer/combiner. (See Malkemes, col. 4, lines 6-18, and col. 1. line 62 through col. 2 line 2.)

Movshovich discusses a method for enhancing transport packet demultiplexing and distribution in a digital transport demultiplexing system. (see Movshovich, Abstract). The method of Movshovich selects identified packets (See PID match unit 304, Figure 3), adds a new header with new packet time stamp information (see Local Header Unit 402, and packet time stamp counter 420 of Figure 6, col. 11, lines 59 through col. 12 line 11), and stores the individual modified transport packets having the new time stamp header into a memory FIFO for distribution to SRAM or DRAM via a memory controller for later recall and distribution to output interfaces (See Movshovich col. 12, lines 18-22).

Coupe discusses a transport stream demultiplexor device that receives an input transport stream comprising a plurality of data packets and including a filter device for removing one or more predetermined packets to form a partial transport stream having a staging buffer device used to insert pulled packets into the gap of the partial transport stream as the partial transport stream is being transported on a real-time basis. The retrieving device enables concurrent re-filling of the staging buffer as queued data is pulled from the buffer so as to enable remultiplexing of high bandwidth/high data content streams. (See Coupe, Abstract)

However, neither Malkemes, Mocshovich, nor Coupe describe a system as recited in amended independent Claim 9. The system of Claim 9 comprises several gateways modules in which are each of them able to handle a plurality of isochronous communications. The gateway is also scalable. None of the cited references, either considered or considered combined, describe a system that has a scalable gateway that is distributed among chained gateway modules, wherein each gateway module handles a plurality of isochronous channels on the local area network, and wherein each gateway module has means for controlling incoming data from a multiple program transport stream received from one external data source according to one request of a peripheral on the local area network and for sending the incoming data received from the one external data source to the local area network in order to reduce bandwidth occupation on the local area network as is recited in amended independent Claim 9.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Malkemes, nor Movshovich, nor Coupe, nor the combination of Malkemes, Movshovich, and Coupe teach or suggest the amended features of pending independent Claim 9 and their respective dependent Claims 4-8 and 12. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 4-9, and 12 are not rendered obvious under 35 USC §103(a) per MPEP §2143 because all elements of the pending claims are not found in the cited art. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Serial No. 10/517,731
Resp. dated July 13, 2009
Reply to Final Office Action dated April 13, 2009

PATENT
PF020064
Customer No. 24498

rejection of pending Claims 4-9, and 12 based on the amendments and remarks above.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the amended pending claims patentably define over the cited art and respectfully requests continued examination and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of all pending claims based on the amendments presented herein.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 07-0832 therefore.

Respectfully submitted,
Claude Chapel et al.

Date: July 13, 2009

/Jerome G. Schaefer/
Jerome G. Schaefer
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 50,800
(609) 734-6451

Thomson Licensing, LLC
Patent Operations
PO Box 5312
Princeton, NJ 08543-5312